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Ongoing priorities and themes

Mandated areas and ongoing priorities and themes

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note is an overview of developments under the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since its third session, as reflected in the contributions of the United Nations system, and the activities of the members of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat. Suggestions for the consideration of the Permanent Forum are contained in the conclusions.

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I. Introduction

1. Since the end of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a variety of activities of relevance to indigenous peoples have been carried out by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, other non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, members of the Permanent Forum and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. In October 2004, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs invited written contributions from United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations on the follow-up to the third session and the preparations for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum. The United Nations system in particular was encouraged to structure contributions along the following lines: (a) response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the particular agency, fund, programme or department under one or more items of the Permanent Forum's mandate; (b) response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies, or to the United Nations system in general, under one or more items of the Permanent Forum's mandate; (c) other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the agency, fund, programme or department; (d) information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the fourth session, "Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples"; (e) name and contact information of the focal point on indigenous issues in the agency, fund, programme or department; and (f) list of conferences and other meetings under the agency's auspices regarding indigenous issues in 2005 and 2006.

2. As at 7 March 2005 written submissions had been received from divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Governments of Canada, Finland and Mexico and by a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, namely Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and Elizabeth Seton Federation. As at 10 March 2005, information has been submitted by 15 intergovernmental entities two of them for the first time, namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the World Trade Organization. These contributions appear in documents E/C.19/2005/4 and addenda, E/C.19/2005/5 and addenda and E/C.19/2005/6. A technical paper on the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples and an expert paper on education and indigenous languages submitted by Permanent Forum members are contained in documents E/C.19/2005/2 and E/C.19/2005/7, respectively.

3. The present note is an overview of the contributions of the United Nations system and of the main activities of members of the Permanent Forum and its

secretariat in promoting the implementation of the Forum's mandate. Throughout the text, conclusions and recommendations appear in bold.

II. Overview of contributions of the United Nations system

A. Action by the Economic and Social Council

4. At its regular 2004 session in July 2004, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum and acted on by consensus on the draft decisions proposed by the Forum (Council decisions 2004/286 to 2004/291). These decisions may be accessed on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/).

B. Contributions by individual agencies

5. Most of the written submissions by the United Nations system followed the format suggested by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and mentioned above, **thus making clearer what has been the response to the recommendations of the Forum. An overview of responses demonstrates a qualitative improvement in providing and sharing information and a more substantive engagement of the United Nations system with the Permanent Forum, although a lot remains to be done.**

6. From the end of the third session to date, invitations to the Permanent Forum to participate in relevant meetings of the United Nations system were extended by the United Nations Environment Programme (1 invitation), United Nations Development Programme (2 invitations) ILO (1 invitation), FAO (1 invitation), UNESCO (3 invitations), the World Bank (1 invitation), IFAD (1 invitation) , World Intellectual Property Organization (2 invitations) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2 invitations). **The invitations extended to members of the Permanent Forum from various United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations are an indication of the continuing results of following the Forum's recommendation, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2004/291 in July 2004, that representation of the Forum at various meetings of relevance to its mandated areas throughout the year is one of the methods of work of the Forum and that all subsidiary bodies of the Council should welcome the Forum and its members by continuing to invite them to attend all relevant meetings, conferences and seminars.**

7. Contributions received show that most agencies integrated elements of the special theme of the fourth session, "Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples". **Almost all agencies have either focal points or programmes addressing indigenous issues, showing the results of awareness-raising efforts made by the Forum. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum will distribute the list of focal points during the fourth session. Information provided by the agencies on forthcoming conferences and meetings in the United Nations system of relevance to the Permanent Forum is posted on the Forum's website: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.**

C. Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

8. The annual session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues was convened by UNDP in New York in September 2004. The 2005 session of the Group will be convened by the United Nations Children's Fund. The report of the 2004 session of the Group is contained in document E/C.19/2005/2.

III. Special theme of the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples

A. Overview

9. At its third session, in May 2004, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues decided that the special theme of its fourth session would be "Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples". In adopting that theme for the 2005 session and subsequent years, the Permanent Forum also decided to focus in 2005 on the first two goals: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger", to be addressed under the following thematic approach of combating poverty: good practices and barriers to implementation; and "Achieve universal primary education", to be addressed under the thematic approaches of language, cultural perspectives and traditional knowledge. Given this decision of the Permanent Forum, there has been a mobilization of preparations by the Inter-Agency Support Group, individual agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. **These activities and possible recommendations for the attention of the Permanent Forum are summarized below.**

10. In order to assist and promote the responsiveness of the United Nations system and help to prepare for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum, the Inter-Agency Support Group focused on the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples during its annual session in September 2004. The Group stressed, among other things, that indigenous and tribal peoples have the right to benefit from the Millennium Development Goals, and from other goals and aspirations contained in the Millennium Declaration, to the same extent as all others. **The report of the Group, submitted to the Permanent Forum as a separate document (E/C.19/2005/2), contains the statement of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples and the Millennium Development Goals, a technical paper on the same subject and a number of recommendations. The report is also available on the website of the Forum at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/4session/Doc_IASG_Report.doc.**

11. The Permanent Forum considered the Draft Global Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals prepared by the United Nations Millennium Project on 23 September 2004. In its commentary sent to the Millennium Project, the Permanent Forum indicated that indigenous peoples were lagging behind other parts of the population in connection with the Goals in most, if not all, the countries in which they lived, and that indigenous women commonly faced additional gender-based disadvantages and discrimination. The momentum for the implementation of the Goals was likely to propel indigenous peoples into an accelerated process of modernization with a profound impact or disruption of the lifestyle, culture, social

networks and the precariously balanced economies of their communities. Increased exploitation of natural resources, such as mining and logging, with possible negative environmental and social consequences, and increased efforts in education and technology without proper attention to the cultural context and to the real needs in which they are launched could have harmful effects, such as accelerated loss of lands and natural resources, loss of language and other aspects of their cultures, forced displacement, migration to urban areas and subsistence in conditions of extreme poverty. Such circumstances may in turn result in social conflicts, increased violence or aggravated exclusion. The chronic marginalization of indigenous peoples in national governance institutions, unless addressed equally urgently in the Millennium Development Goals processes, may lead to increased silencing of their voices and denial of their full and meaningful participation in development-related decisions.

12. Following this commentary, the final report of the United Nations Millennium Project, issued in January 2005, refers to indigenous and tribal peoples in chapters 7, 8, 11 and 12. The report can be found at: http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/fullreport.htm.

13. The report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on progress regarding the Millennium Declaration is expected to be released at the end of March 2005 and will indicate where, in the Secretary-General's view, bold decisions are needed from member States at the September 2005 summit in order to realize the objectives of the Declaration.

14. A high-level panel on "Integrating Indigenous Peoples Perspectives on Development and the Millennium Development Goals" was organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in cooperation with the Tebtebba Foundation and IFAD within the framework of the Governing Council of IFAD. The panel met in Rome from 15 to 17 February 2005 and comprised indigenous experts from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Permanent Forum members, IFAD staff and government representatives from Finland and the Philippines. Additional information and statements presented at the high-level panel are available at the Permanent Forum website: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/MDGs/MDGs_IFAD_side%20event.htm.

15. **At the date of submission of the present document the following number of entities of the United Nations system had referred to the special theme of the fourth session in their written contributions to the Forum: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNIFEM, UN-Habitat, UNITAR, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IFAD, the Inter-Agency Group on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Meeting on free, prior and informed consent on indigenous peoples and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.**

16. **Examination of those reports leads to the conclusion that practical steps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in each country can and should be diagnosed, planned, and implemented with the proper focus and actions in indigenous peoples communities, combined with suitable support from the international community.**

B. Preliminary desk reviews of Millennium Development Goals country reports and of poverty reduction strategy papers regarding indigenous issues

17. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum conducted a preliminary desk review of 20 Millennium Development Goals country reports from the following countries: Algeria, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Philippines, Rwanda, Thailand, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam and noted that 68 per cent of the reports did not integrate nor respond to the indigenous or tribal peoples' situation and concerns. Lack of meaningful consultation with indigenous peoples concerned was also reported from one of the Millennium Development Goals pilot project countries of the Millennium Project. The country reports may be accessed through website: http://www.undp.org/mdg/countryreports.html.

18. The poverty reduction strategy papers are very important in the process towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As indicated in the written contribution of ILO to the fourth session of the Permanent Forum (E/C.19/2005/4/Add.5), ILO has been examining the specific impact of national poverty reduction strategy processes on indigenous and tribal peoples, as well as the extent to which these peoples have participated in these processes, and the development of the papers. Initial work on the subject has constituted an ethnic audit of poverty reduction strategy papers in 14 countries and two case studies on the consultation and participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in those processes in Cameroon and Cambodia. **Both these initiatives and the conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Forum at its fourth session (see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/4session/Doc_ILO.doc).**

19. The results of the fourth session of the Permanent Forum will make a valuable contribution to the 2005 regular session of the Economic and Social Council, especially its high-level segment, which is devoted to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities. In this connection, Permanent Forum member Victoria Tauli-Corpuz is a participant in a high-level round table on the eradication of poverty and hunger scheduled for 16 March 2005 within the framework of the preparatory process for the high-level segment of the Council.

20. The contribution of the Permanent Forum will also hopefully have reverberations on the preparatory process for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly — the Millennium Summit, in which Heads of State and Government are expected to take part. **The Permanent Forum may wish to give consideration to methods of following and monitoring the extent to which the concerns of indigenous communities are taken into account, how this is reflected in the Millennium Development Goals country reports and the poverty reduction strategy papers and what lessons can be learned from these processes.**

21. **Given the fact that the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People coincides with the targeted time frame remaining for the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals, that is, 2015, the Permanent Forum may wish to make strategic suggestions for inclusion in the**

draft plan of action for the Decade to be submitted by the Coordinator of the Decade to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

C. Millennium Campaign

22. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the Millennium Campaign launched a joint campaign with the purpose of having indigenous peoples' participation and their active leadership role in the United Nations Millennium Campaign, which is an initiative that encourages citizens around the world to hold their Governments to account for their promises made in the Millennium Declaration and Goals.

23. The secretariat organized a side event during the Indigenous Preparatory Meeting on Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge, held in Costa Rica on 7 December 2004. The event was entitled "Indigenous Peoples and Millennium Development Goals" and the speakers were Patricia Garce, representative of Social Watch Uruguay/Millennium Campaign, and Parshuram Tamang, member of the Permanent Forum. It was attended by 174 indigenous leaders from around the world. Important points were highlighted during the debate, including the following recommendations:

- **Indigenous and tribal peoples should approach regional and national civil society organizations with the purpose of strengthening their common determination to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals and eradicate poverty.**
- **Indigenous and tribal peoples should participate in the drafting of the country reports regarding Millennium Development Goals.**

24. The secretariat opened a special page on its web site on the Millennium Development Goals entitled "A Call for Indigenous Peoples' Participation" at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/MDGs/MDGs_IPO_campaign1.htm.

25. During the World Festival of Youth held at the Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona, Spain, in August 2004, the indigenous youth representatives from around the world identified their priorities in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A report on the event is contained in the final report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights receiving the activities within the United Nations system under the programme for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/2005/87).

D. Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues

26. The Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs held meetings on a quarterly basis. Within the framework of promoting the integration of indigenous issues in the Department's technical cooperation programmes, meetings were held in November 2004 with the Division for Public Administration and Development Management and in December 2004 with the Division for Sustainable Development. Other areas of cooperation on indigenous issues within the Department include traditional forest-related knowledge, poverty eradication and unemployment, microcredit and microfinancing, ageing and older person's issues, gender and the advancement of

women, family issues, youth issues, population and demographics, mortality, migration, disability issues, conflict resolution, statistics and governance.

27. The secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Youth Unit, sponsored Jennifer Awingan, an indigenous young leader from Asia, to participate in the consultative meeting on youth in preparation for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. The event was held in Portugal, from 31 January to 3 February 2005. As a result, a number of recommendations relevant to indigenous youth were made. Information can be accessed at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library/coimbrareport.pdf and http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library/nyreport.pdf.

IV. Activities of the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

28. The following information is an overview of activities in the mandated areas undertaken by members of the Permanent Forum since its last session. They are arranged following the mandate areas of the Permanent Forum, although many are obviously relevant to several areas. It is not an exhaustive account of activities undertaken.

A. Economic and social development

29. Mr. Jacanamijoy attended the seventeenth Assembly of the Indigenous Parliament of the Americas, held in June 2004 in Quito. He also participated in the sixth General Assembly of the Forum of the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in June 2004.

30. Mr. Magga, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, participated at the Global launch of the UNDP *Human Development Report 2004, Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World* in Brussels in July 2004, which contained important remarks on indigenous issues. The abstract presentation can be found at the UNDP website http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2004/. At the launch, Parshuram Tamang was invited to deliver a statement in Kathmandu.

31. Mr. Boychenko, Mr. Littlechild, Ms. Nicolaisen and Mr. Tamang attended the session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in September 2004, which focused on indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals. The report of the meeting is contained in document E/C.19/2005/2.

32. Mr. Jacanamijoy represented the Permanent Forum at the Indigenous Advisory Council meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank, held in Washington, D.C., in December 2004 to discuss a better use of the Bank's resources, the strengthening of an open dialogue between Governments and indigenous actors and a better orientation of national and regional policies in support of development with identity and the protection of collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples. Ms. Pacari attended the follow-up meeting held in January 2005.

33. Mr. Matias attended a meeting organized by the indigenous regional organizations Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica, Consejo Indígena de Centro América and Fondo Indígena, held in Quito in October 2004. Representatives from various intergovernmental institutions, funds

and cooperation programmes and various indigenous leaders from the Americas attended the meeting and presentations were made on work done during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

34. Mr. Magga attended the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council held in New York in July 2004 in connection with the consideration of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum, as well as the meeting of the Council with chairpersons of its functional commissions. He also met with the chairpersons of the functional commissions of the Council and its Bureau to strengthen methods of work and collaboration with the Council.

B. Culture, including traditional knowledge

35. In May 2004, Mr. Turpo attended the UNESCO Director-General's Consultative Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO of Latin America and the Caribbean Region on the Preparation of the draft programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007, in Aruba. He participated in the panel on pluralism, intercultural dialogue and indigenous people.

36. Mr. Magga attended a UNESCO panel at the Universal Forum of Culture in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2004.

37. In September 2004, Mr. Littlechild gave a briefing on traditional knowledge and the protection of indigenous peoples' intellectual property in WIPO headquarters in Geneva. He also participated in the review of WIPO policy on intellectual property, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore.

38. In November 2004, Ms. Luxi de Coti and Mr. Turpo participated in the UNESCO conference on Media, Pluralism and Endangered Culture, held in the Dominican Republic.

39. Mr. Magga and Ms. Luxi de Coti, respectively, participated as observers in two sessions of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on the draft Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expression in November 2004 and February 2005 in Paris. Among other things, they underlined the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples in the process of the elaboration of the draft convention.

40. Ms. Nicolaisen attended the seventh session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore in November 2004, at which she pointed out the Forum's willingness to provide expert input to the work of WIPO on intellectual property, traditional knowledge and folklore, on issues such as how customary and indigenous laws and protocols could be recognized and applied within national, regional and international systems for the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

C. Education

41. Messrs. Littlechild and Kouevi attended the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and Education organized jointly by UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in October 2004 in Paris, providing

expertise to the thematic research of Rodolfo Stavenhagen, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The report of the seminar has been submitted to the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2005/Add.4).

D. Environment

42. Mr. Tamang participated in the twentieth session of the chairpersons of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Bonn in June 2004.

43. Mr. Tamang also participated in the high-level panel of the Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments organized in San José from 6 to 10 December 2004 by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. He highlighted how indigenous peoples were contributing to sustainable forest management and protection.

44. Mr. Tamang also participated in the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Milan, Italy, in December 2004 and the United Nations Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bangkok in February 2005.

45. William Langeveldt participated in the sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the twenty-third UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Nairobi in February 2005.

E. Human rights

46. Mr. Kouevi participated in the twenty-second session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, which was held in July 2004 in Geneva. The main theme was "Indigenous Peoples and Conflict Resolution". The Working Group was also attended by Messrs. Magga, Littlechild and Turpo and Ms. Trask.

47. Messrs. Kouevi, Littlechild and Tamang attended the tenth session of the United Nations Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held in Geneva in September 2004. In Geneva, Mr. Boychenko and Mr. Littlechild met with the ILO Advisory Committee on Indigenous Issues and the Executive Director of the ILO Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Sector.

48. Mr. Magga and Ms. Strogalschikova participated in the International Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Russian and the World Contexts, held in Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation, in December 2004.

F. Awareness-raising to integrate and mainstream indigenous issues

49. Ms. Trask participated in the panel discussion on mainstreaming gender held at the Economic and Social Council in June 2004 in New York.

50. Mr. Boychenko, Mr. Magga and Ms. Strogalschikova attended the Fourth World Finno-Ugric Peoples' Congress held in Tallinin, Estonia, from 15 to 19 August 2004. While in Tallinin, they also met with members of the Youth Association of the Finno-Ugric Peoples.

V. Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

51. By its resolution 57/191 of 18 December 2002, on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Forum.

52. In 2004, contributions were received from Chile, Denmark, Finland, UNDP and the International Shinto Foundation. Finland earmarked an amount of its contribution for the development of a Fellowship Programme by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. UNDP earmarked its 2004 contribution for work on data as well as free, prior and informed consent. An additional earmarked contribution was received in 2005 from IFAD for work on indigenous peoples' perspectives on development and the Millennium Development Goals.

53. Since the third session of the Permanent Forum, the Fund supported 24 travel missions of members of the Forum to meetings of relevance to the Forum's mandate. These missions provided the opportunity for members, as focal points in their specific areas, to make presentations and contribute to raising awareness and promoting integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues.

54. As a further contribution to the goal of raising awareness of the activities related to indigenous issues, the Fund supported publications on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. A book in Spanish entitled, "The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations" was co-financed and disseminated to principal indigenous organizations and agencies for cooperation in Latin America in hard copy and electronically. A second publication that was supported by the Fund was the update and publication of a handbook in Russian that provides basic information on the nature of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. To be completed in 2005, the handbook, entitled "The IWGIA* Handbook on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues" is intended for distribution to indigenous organizations and representatives in the Russian Federation.

55. The Fund also supported: (a) the travel of one high-level expert who addressed the third session of the Permanent Forum on indigenous languages in education; (b) an awareness-raising video for the United Nations and government officials working with indigenous communities (to be completed in 2005); (c) a cultural event in connection with the commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August 2004; (d) travel of participants to the expert meeting on free, prior and informed consent that was held in January 2005; and (e) the

* International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs.

organization of a high-level panel and a cultural event within the context of the IFAD Governing Council in February 2005.

VI. Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

56. On 20 December 2004, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/174 proclaiming a Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In the resolution, which was adopted with no programme budget implications, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Second Decade, which to all juridical purposes and effects should be set up and should discharge its functions as a successor to the already existing voluntary fund established for the present Decade pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163, 49/214 and 50/157. The aims of the Decade are the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities. The Assembly also requested the Coordinator to fulfil the mandate in full cooperation and consultation with Governments, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and other relevant bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, other members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and indigenous and non-governmental organizations.

57. A note inviting contributions from indigenous peoples organizations, Member States and the United Nations system on the Programme of Activities for the Second Decade was issued by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in February 2005. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum plans to make an oral presentation at the fourth session of the Forum on responses that will have been received by May 2005. **Based on these contributions, the results of various indigenous regional conferences and the advice of the Permanent Forum, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, designated by the General Assembly as the Coordinator of the Decade, will submit a draft plan of action to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. The Permanent Forum may also wish to consider a major launch of the plan of action for the Decade during its fifth session in 2006.**

58. By a letter addressed to the Coordinator of the Second Decade in March 2005, the Government of Germany became the first to make a pledge to the Fund for the Decade to be disbursed in 2005.

VII. Activities of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

A. Follow-up to recommendations of the Permanent Forum

1. Data collection

59. In response to recommendations of the Expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples, and following a decision of the Permanent Forum, Mr. Dodson, member of the Permanent Forum, will participate at the Satellite Meeting on Measuring Small and Indigenous Populations organized by the International Association for Official Statistics in Wellington from 14 to 15 April 2005. A 40-minute plenary session is scheduled to address the conclusions and recommendations of the 2004 International Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples that was held following a decision of the Permanent Forum. In addition, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum commenced a pilot project to develop a website to disseminate relevant data on indigenous peoples.

60. In cooperation with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum is conducting a survey with the purpose of developing a website to disseminate data on nationality/ethnic group, language and religion with a focus on indigenous peoples. The survey consists of reviewing the existing data in national censuses, analysing the way in which ethnic groups are already being measured by Member States, through census questionnaires from the censuses of the past decades. The major part of the project is expected to be completed in May 2005 and be presented at the fourth session of the Permanent Forum.

2. International Expert Workshop on Methodologies regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples

61. Following a recommendation of the Permanent Forum and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2004/287 of 22 July 2004, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum convened an International Workshop on Methodologies regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples from 17 to 19 January 2005.

62. **The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop which appear in section III of the report (E/C.19/2005/3) identify elements of a common understanding of free, prior and informed consent, as well as a number of recommendations of a general nature, and specific recommendations addressing participation, capacity-building and good practices for the consideration of the Permanent Forum at its fourth session.** The papers presented at the Workshop have been posted on the website of the Permanent Forum at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.

3. Preparatory meeting for phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society — International Indigenous Thematic Planning Conference

63. At its third session in May 2004 the Permanent Forum recommended that the United Nations system continue its advocacy work on indigenous connectivity in

preparation for phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the outcomes of the Global Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Information Society. The Permanent Forum applauded and supported the decision taken by the Summit to establish multi-stakeholder portals that allow communication between indigenous peoples at the national level.

64. An International Indigenous Thematic Planning Conference has been organized by the Aboriginal Canadian Portal Working Group in conjunction with its National Connecting Aboriginal Peoples Forum and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. The meeting was held from 14 to 18 March 2005 in Ottawa to prepare for phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunisia in November 2005.

4. Indigenous women

Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

65. The Task Force on Indigenous Women was initiated on 11 June 2004 following a decision of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality at its February 2004 session and the recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its third session regarding indigenous women. Members of the Task Force are the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, both of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP, UNIFEM, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of women, ILO, FAO, IFAD and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is convened by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

66. The purpose of the Task Force is to integrate and strengthen gender mainstreaming as regards indigenous women's roles and the special concerns of indigenous women as an emerging key issue in the work of the United Nations system. The short-term goals of the Task Force accomplished to date were reported to the annual session of the Inter-Agency Network in February 2005. The report is available at the Forum website at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/Report_Task%20Force_%20on_IW_final.doc. The goal of the Task Force in the coming years is to identify successful examples and to disseminate this information, follow up on specific recommendations of the Permanent Forum and produce practical tools.

67. The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum have cooperated to produce a series of briefing notes on gender and indigenous issues, which will be jointly published and disseminated during the fourth session of the Permanent Forum.

Ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)

68. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum promoted the participation of indigenous women at official and other events held in March 2005 within the context of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which some 60 indigenous women were present. Indigenous women participated in a total of seven official and side events, held two press conferences, attended a one-week training seminar, adopted a declaration and proposed a resolution that was finally adopted at the Commission on the Status of Women. Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum participated in the official celebration of International Women's Day and Felicitas Martínez Solano, an indigenous young woman from Mexico, participated as a keynote speaker on the panel on "Future perspectives of the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men".

69. The secretariat also organized a side event on "Indigenous Women: 10 years after Beijing". The panellists were Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, member of the Permanent Forum; Lucy Mulenkei, African Indigenous Women's Organization — Indigenous Information Network; Tarcila Rivera, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú; Stela Tamang, South Asia Indigenous Women Forum; and Beverley Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. The secretariat also hosted two press conferences for indigenous women and cooperated closely with MADRE and the International Indigenous Women Forum for other panels and a week-long training workshop for the more than 60 indigenous women leaders present during the Commission on the Status of Women.

B. Other activities by the secretariat in support of the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

1. Contribution to reports, statements and promotional activities

70. Throughout the year, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum contributed to various reports of the United Nations Secretariat and promoted the integration of indigenous issues. It organized or participated in promotional awareness-raising events, such as the 2004 commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People at United Nations Headquarters, as well as at the Governing Council of IFAD in Rome in February 2005. The secretariat annually produces four internal newsletters addressed to the Permanent Forum members, as well as public newsletters in English and, depending on staff resources, it prepares informal translations into French, Russian and Spanish. The public newsletter is available at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/quarterlynewsle_home1.htm. The secretariat has created special pages on indigenous women, the Millennium Development Goals and Path to phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society.

71. In October 2004, the secretariat launched a Distinguished Lecture Series on Indigenous Issues with Rodolfo Stavenhagen as the first lecturer. The secretariat received a number of indigenous delegations throughout the year. Lectures on indigenous issues have been given by secretariat staff at academic and other venues. The secretariat is preparing a video for use by the United Nations country offices,

with the aim of promoting integration of indigenous issues in their work and providing general information on the Permanent Forum. In cooperation with United Nations Radio, the secretariat will prepare 15-second radio spots on indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals, for the purpose of disseminating information to indigenous and non-indigenous radio programmes and others.

2. Cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development

72. Thanks to a contribution by IFAD to the Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum, the secretariat is able to pursue a programme on indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals. The aim of the programme is to contribute to developing the direction of IFAD development work with indigenous peoples in the coming years in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The programme will also conduct a side event at the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to present and discuss the results of the various case studies.

3. Humanitarian issues

73. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has been attending weekly meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other meetings of its Inter-Agency Task Force on Tsunami, which provide updates on the humanitarian situation in various countries, as well as the status of relief operations. Upon the onset of the tsunami disaster, the secretariat raised the issue of the indigenous communities adversely affected by the disaster. The statement of the Permanent Forum is available at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/.

4. Capacity-building and dissemination of information on indigenous issues

74. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has initiated a training programme for indigenous organizations. The first such programme was organized for indigenous women in conjunction with the ten-year review of the Beijing Conference on Women in March 2005 and covered the Permanent Forum, the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples and international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on women's rights. Given the growing interest in training, in particular the mechanism on women's rights, the secretariat intends to enhance its cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with a view to preparing and providing more specific training for indigenous women. The secretariat is also cooperating closely with non-governmental organizations and academic institutions that will conduct training seminars before the fourth session of the Permanent Forum. A training seminar for delegates of member States is to be organized by the secretariat in April 2005.

75. The secretariat is preparing a training video for United Nations and governmental officials working with indigenous communities. A brochure on indigenous children is also under preparation.

76. In cooperation with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the secretariat is preparing a "tool kit" on indigenous issues for distribution to the United Nations country teams.

C. Strengthening the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with the United Nations system

77. The United Nations Development Group had designated indigenous issues among its priorities for 2004. In July 2004, the United Nations Development Group incorporated revisions with specific references to indigenous issues in the Guidelines for the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Those revisions were proposed by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in close cooperation with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

78. At the September 2004 session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum presented a note on strengthening the work of the Permanent Forum with the United Nations system. The first part of the note was an overview of the ways in which the Permanent Forum had worked with the intergovernmental system to date. The second part was a compilation of ideas and suggestions emanating from agencies, Permanent Forum members and others on how to strengthen such cooperation. The compilation was not exhaustive, but rather, indicative of the dynamic relationship between the Permanent Forum and the intergovernmental system. A summary appears below:

(a) **Agencies wish to benefit further from the expertise and advice of Forum members throughout the year on select issues of importance for the agencies in the course of their work;**

(b) **Agencies and Forum members, especially relevant portfolio holders, would like to consult more extensively before the formulation of recommendations to be adopted by the Forum;**

(c) **Ways should be further developed for closer contact between Forum members who are portfolio holders and the agencies relevant to their portfolios;**

(d) **The agency focal points could divulge information about the Forum and its recommendations to their field offices and promote the creation of an informal network of officers focusing on indigenous issues, including the indigenous field staff. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should receive the list of staff and their contact information so as to use this informal network for overall outreach purposes;**

(e) **Before the Forum's sessions, its members can distribute according to their portfolios the study of the voluminous pre-sessional documentation submitted by the agencies, so as to be able to provide an in-depth assessment, prepare statements on the issues and propose relevant recommendations;**

(f) **Indigenous regional caucuses would appreciate if, during its sessions, the Permanent Forum could facilitate region-specific dialogues with agencies to discuss progress and challenges in the work of the United Nations system at the regional and subregional levels.**

VIII. Conclusions

79. **The secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues noted the increasing engagement of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations with indigenous issues in their respective work. An increased engagement of regional intergovernmental institutions would also be useful in advancing indigenous issues at the regional and national levels. The strategy of the Permanent Forum to direct its work around major international agendas has proven productive, as in the case of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). The ongoing process with regard to the Millennium Development Goals at the national and international levels will hopefully include indigenous perspectives in the implementation of the Goals.**

80. **Until its third session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues adopted its recommendations under each of its mandated areas. Given the fact that the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People coincides with the targeted time frame for the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals, that is, by 2015, the Permanent Forum may wish to re-frame some of its recommendations with a view to addressing specific issues of indigenous peoples in the accomplishment of the Goals and to use the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People as a strategic tool in that regard.**